
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY AND
DEVELOP A PLAN TO ADDRESS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND
POVERTY REDUCTION.

1 WHEREAS, poverty has social and economic costs for
2 children, families, communities, and the State; and
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4 WHEREAS, for example, children living in poverty often
5 experience lower academic achievement and increased health and
6 behavioral problems, the consequences of which often carry on
7 into adulthood, resulting in greater social and economic costs
8 to society from increased crime rates, health problems, and an
9 estimated \$500,000,000,000 nationally in lost earnings each
10 year, among other things; and
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12 WHEREAS, with median 2012 household incomes no higher than
13 they were 25 years ago, middle-class families in Hawaii are
14 increasingly living from paycheck to paycheck; and
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16 WHEREAS, more states are recognizing that reducing poverty
17 by addressing the needs of low- and moderate-income families is
18 a critical economic development issue; and
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20 WHEREAS, reducing poverty requires strategic, integrated,
21 and comprehensive approaches that create opportunities for
22 families to achieve economic success, including creating quality
23 jobs, providing work support, promoting greater collaboration
24 with the private sector, and implementing targeted tax policies;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to improve access to
28 economic and education opportunities to help families achieve
29 self-sufficiency and financial security while reducing the
30 number of Hawaii residents living in poverty; now, therefore,



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
2 Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
3 Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
4 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to
5 establish a temporary Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction
6 Task Force (Task Force) to assess current state policies and
7 practices that promote economic opportunities and poverty
8 reduction and develop and propose a plan to expand economic
9 opportunities in Hawaii; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force study and
12 evaluate best policies and practices that:

- 13
14 (1) Build family assets and financial stability;
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16 (2) Increase preschool through postsecondary educational
17 opportunities;
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19 (3) Expand the workforce with quality jobs that meet
20 private sector needs;
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22 (4) Make work pay through the use of fair and sustainable
23 targeted tax policies; and
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25 (5) Address work-support issues; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force study and
28 evaluate:

- 29
30 (1) Federally-supported and state-supported programs that
31 serve persons living in poverty;
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33 (2) The economic impact of poverty;
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35 (3) Current policies and services that affect persons
36 living below the self-sufficiency standard;
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38 (4) The interaction of various issues that affect poverty,
39 such as a lack of education, health care, housing,
40 income, child care, and food security; and



- 1 (5) The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, with
2 the goal of recommending changes to increase
3 participation and secure additional federal funds for
4 assistance with education and training; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force, before December
7 22, 2015, develop a strategic, integrated, and comprehensive
8 plan to expand economic opportunities in Hawaii to reduce, by at
9 least 50 percent by 2021, the number of Hawaii residents,
10 including children and families, living in poverty; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force comprise the
13 following individuals;
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- 15 (1) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
16 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;
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18 (2) One member of the Senate appointed by the President of
19 the Senate;
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21 (3) One member appointed by the Governor;
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23 (4) One member of a community organization with expertise
24 in poverty reduction or asset building appointed by
25 the Speaker of the House of Representatives from a
26 list of three organizations submitted by the Majority
27 Leader of the House of Representatives; and
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29 (5) One member of a community organization with expertise
30 in poverty reduction or asset building appointed by
31 the President of the Senate from a list of three
32 organizations submitted by the Majority Leader of the
33 Senate; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force members select
36 one of its members to serve as chairperson of the Task Force;
37 and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial appointments to the
40 Task Force shall be made by August 1, 2015; and



H.C.R. NO. 151

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Task Force shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for any expenses incurred in the performance of their duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall meet at least four times and additionally as convened by the chairperson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, if any, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force be terminated on December 22, 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

OFFERED BY:

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